

**Question for written answer E-004102/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Bruno Tobback (S&D)

Subject: Divergent waste shipment procedures hampering battery recycling and evidence-based policymaking

In 2024, the European association of national collection schemes for batteries (Eucobat) launched a study on the ‘available-for-collection’ methodology for portable battery collection targets under Regulation (EU) 2023/1542¹. The study relies on an analysis centralised in Belgium of 2000 kg of waste portable batteries from 12 Member States.

Two years later, only 5 out of 12 Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs) have actually succeeded in shipping samples.

The main obstacle is that prior notification procedures under the Waste Shipment Regulation are costly and lengthy, and differ between Member States.

This hampers the study and key findings will likely arrive too late to provide the Commission with meaningful, timely and representative input for the policymaking process of the EU Circular Economy Act (CEA) and more specifically, for the review of collection targets and its methodology.

1. Does the Commission agree that this is unfortunate and that it illustrates a wider problem; namely, that slow and fragmented notification procedures obstruct the sorting, pre-treatment and recycling of waste batteries in the internal market, despite the launch of the Digital Waste Shipment System (DIWASS) in 2026?
2. Transport times and procedures are still very lengthy and burdensome in practice, even to and between pre-consented recovery facilities. What will the Commission do to remedy this for pre-consented recovery facilities and others, including in the CEA?
3. Will the Commission consider a simplified procedure for shipments intended for research or analysis, with a higher quantity threshold than the current laboratory analysis limit?

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¹ [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1542 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 July 2023 concerning batteries and waste batteries](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1542/2026-08-13), OJ L 191, 28.7.2023, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1542/2026-08-13>.